THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) As per information available, details are given below:

State	Number of MoUs signed with steel Manufacturers
Orissa	16
Jharkhand	29
Chhattisgarh	07

(b) As the MoUs have been signed by the State Governments concerned detailed information on such commitments are not centrally maintained.

(c) As per the estimates of the Indian Bureau of Mines, details of proven reserves of iron ore in these three States, as on 1.4.2000, are given below:—

(in '000 tonnes)

State	
Orissa	1109679
Chhattisgarh	426177
Jharkhand	2296604

Panel to Examine Mineral Proceesing

1296. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up a high level panel to examine whether the minerals mined within the State of Orissa, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh etc. should be processed for value addition within the States and only the final product would go out;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the terms of reference of the panel;

(c) whether the panel will also examine the ways and means to augment the State revenues from the Mineral sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) A High Level Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of Shri Anwarul Hoda, Member Planning Commission to review the National Mineral Policy and to recommend possible amendments to the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 to give a fillip to private investment in the mining sector.

(b) to (d) The term of reference of the committee are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

The Term of Reference of the High Level Committee constituted by Planning Commission

(i) To review the National Mineral Policy, 1993 and the Mines and Minerals Development and Regulation (MMDR) Act, 1957 and suggest the changes needed for encouraging investment in public and private sector in exploration and exploitation of minerals;

(ii) To review the existing procedures for granting RP/PL/ML and suggest ways for their streamlining and simplification;

(iii) To review the procedures for according clearance to mineral exploration and mining projects under Forest (Conservation) and Environment (Protection) Act 1986, and suggest ways for speeding them up;

(iv) To prioritize the critical infrastructure needs of the Indian mining sector and make recommendations on ways to facilitate investment to meet these needs;

(v) To examine the implications of the policy of mineral rich States to make value addition within the State a condition for grant of mineral concession and make appropriate recommendations in this regard;

(vi) To examine ways of augmenting State revenues from the mineral sector; and

(vii) To examine any other issue relevant for stimulating investment flows and inducting state-of-the-art technology into the sector.